

August 20, 2020
Maine Milk Commission Meeting Minutes
Held Remotely via Teams
Augusta, Maine 04333

Notices for the August 20, 2020 meeting were distributed to Commission members, intervenors and other interested parties on July 23, 2020 and sent to the Secretary of State's Office for posting on July 23, 2020.

Commission Present: Mike Wiers, Stanley Millay, Colon Durrell, Richard Cook and Matt Randall.

Commission Absent: None

Department Officials: None

Staff Present: Tim Drake, Executive Director, Joy Bonenfant, Resource Administrator and Carol Gauthier, Office Associate

Legal Counsel: Laura Jensen

Others Present: Julie-Marie Bickford, MDIA, Gary Anderson, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, John Blake, H.P. Hood, Mike Benar, Oakhurst, Meredith Fahey and Sarah Littlefield, Maine Dairy Promotion Board and Nutrition Council, Christine Cummings, Maine Grocers and Food Producers Association.

Chairman Wiers called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Agenda Item 1: Minutes: Richard Cook made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 23, 2020 meeting. Matt Randall seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 2: Laura Jensen, Assistant Attorney General: No report.

Agenda Item 3: Minimum Prices:

Tim Drake reported a prevailing premium of \$1.04/cwt. on Class I for September 2020, Dairy Farmers of America and Agri-Mark did not report any changes for September 2020. Federal Order One Class I price for September 2020 is \$21.69, a decrease of \$1.34/cwt. He explained that a schedule was prepared using this information plus a producer cost of production adjustment (COPA) of \$1.63/cwt. He stated that this price schedule was for informational purposes and that the Commission was not bound to it, and they should make their pricing determination after hearing testimony.

Chairman Wiers asked for testimony.

Julie-Marie Bickford stated that Maine's producers were still feeling the pinch of negative PPD's, which take cash from farmers pocket. She also stated that producers were grateful for the "tier program" and the Maine Milk Commission's Cost of Production adjustment. She went on to say that farmers desperately need rain and that the corn harvest will commence shortly due to increased degree days.

No other testimony was offered.

Chairman Wiers asked for a motion.

Stanley Millay made the motion to accept order #9-20 with a Commission premium of \$1.04/cwt. and a COPA of \$1.63/cwt.

Matt Randall seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-0 by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 4: Maine Monthly Price Survey: Tim Drake stated that he had performed a price survey in all areas of the state as normal, with the only issues being in the Augusta and Brunswick Wal-Mart stores, they were asked to remove the store brand milk from sale until the correct pricing could be applied. The correct pricing was applied the next day. The IAMCA price survey was not available.

Agenda Item 5: Next Scheduled Meetings:

- September 24, 2020, Room 101, Deering Building, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Augusta, ME
- October 22, 2020, Room 101, Deering Building, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Augusta, ME
- November 19, 2020, Room 101, Deering Building, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Augusta, ME
- December 23, 2020, Room 101, Deering Building, Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Augusta, ME

Agenda Item 6: Other

- A. **FY 2020 Financial Report**, Tim Drake reported that the milk pool administration fees had been paid to our account and we were now current and up to date.

Julie Marie Bickford asked about the current state budget crisis and if it had been affecting the Milk Commission budget. Tim Drake answered that he had been asked to contribute some savings to the Department goal of 10% budget cuts. Julie Marie voiced concern that this could set a precedent that the Commission budget was “fair” game in subsequent budget shortfalls.

Agenda Item 7: Executive Session: None

Adjourned: Adjourned; 10:50 a.m. August 20, 2020.
Tim Drake, Maine Milk Commission